



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th December 2013 at 8.00 p.m. in Bridgerule Village Hall

Present: Chairman: Cllr. K. James
Councillors: Cllrs. C. Seymour-Smith, K. Elliott, G. Abbott, J. McDougall, P. Haydon, A. Johnston, J. Giles and J. Medland

In Attendance: Parish Clerk

Mr. Michael Timms
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Darwin

1071. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

1072. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

1073. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

Cllr. James, having explained the process of Standing Orders, agreed that Members of the Public, who were present regarding specific Items on the Agenda, would be allowed to ask questions as the Items were discussed.

1074. POLICE REPORT

A Police Report was not available.

1075. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Cllr. McDougall pointed out that Item 1069, fourth paragraph, should read Item 1066. Cllr. James pointed out that the wording in Item 1057 (Item 1038 – rubbish bin) should read ‘Cllr. James told the Meeting that he had been informed that Town and Parish Councils are excluded from receiving grants from District Councillors and it was agreed the money would be raised by some other means’.

Cllr. James proposed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th November, 2013 be amended accordingly, approved and presented for signing at the next Full Council Meeting. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. Abstentions).

1076. MATTERS ARISING

Item 1057 – Derelict Housing – The PC had written to Mr. Miles (Item 4 Correspondence sent) and had subsequently requested the written report from Ms. Southwell, which had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was felt no further action, at the moment, could be taken.

Item 1063 – Lease re. River Walk – The PC presented the Lease to Cllrs. James and Medland for signature. Cllr. James said he would obtain the necessary signatures from Mr. & Mrs. Hale and return one copy to the PC for safe-keeping.

Item 1065 – The PC confirmed she has written to Mr. Phillips (Item 3 Correspondence sent). A reply had not been received, however, Cllr. James and the PC will be speaking to Mr. Phillips on 20th January and the PC asked that Cllrs. let her know of any Highways’ issues they would like brought to his attention. Cllr. Abbott mentioned the collapse of the bank into the ‘stream’ at the bottom of the hill leading to Churchtown.

Item 1069 – Salt and Gritting – The PC confirmed that she had spoken to Mr. Sharp, who is all set to do the gritting, if necessary, and Mr. Brian Beadle has volunteered to help him.

1077. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN DECEMBER 2013						
						-
COUNCIL EXPENDITURE						-
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason
03.12.13	Mole Control	538	£120.00	£120.00		Removal moles playing field
18.12.13	M. Fenner	539	£156.43	£156.43		Salary December
18.12.13	HM Revenue & Customs	540	£117.20	£117.20		PAYE
18.12.13	Bude DIY Ltd	541	£347.27	£347.27		Materials bus shelter
TOTAL			£740.90	£740.90	£0.00	
Bank Accounts						
<u>Current Account</u>				<u>Reserve Account</u>		
Balance at 19 November		£3,569.11			£7,360.90	Balance at 19th November
					£2,000.00	Transferred to Bonus Saver a/c
			£3,569.11			
	535		£27.59			
	536		£156.43			
	537		£134.94			
	538		£120.00			
Balance at 19 December			£3,130.15			£5,360.90
				<u>Playing Field Project Bonus Saver Account</u>		
		Balance at 12th September				£3,016.00
			quarterly bonus - June		September	£4.55
			Interest			£0
			Transferred from Reserve a/c Nov			£2,000.00
Balance at 19th December						£5,020.77

The PC explained that the payment re. moles had been necessary due to the problem recurring. Cllr. Giles believes that the Primary School may need to address a problem it appears to have with moles, which could be the cause of the recurring problem on the playing field. It was agreed that the PC would write to the School asking if it could address this problem.

Cllr. James proposed the accounts be approved for payment. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1078. TO DISCUS A REQUEST FROM FRIENDS OF BRIDGERULE SCHOOL (FOBS) TO LOCATE A BIKE RACK ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND

A copy of the letter had been circulated with the Agenda. After discussion, Cllr. Abbott proposed that the request be approved and that Cllr. James will arrange a meeting with Ms. Shadrick to discuss the

location, and any associated issues, of the bike rack. Cllr. Seymour-Smith seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1079. TO DISCUSS AND RESPOND TO A QUERY, FROM MR. M. TIMMS, REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S DECISION RE. PLANNING APPLICATION 1/0766/2013/FUL – WIND TURBINE AT STURTON/TATSON FARM

A copy of the query had been circulated with the Agenda.

Cllr. James commented that Government wind turbine policy is “a political football”. He explained that when discussing any planning application Councillors can only discuss the information that is put before them. If written objections were sent directly to the Parish Council or members of the public attended the meeting to raise objections, these could be taken into account when an application is discussed. However, information collected by a Councillor, be it from the TDC website or by speaking to members of the public, could not be brought to the discussions. Cllr. James also explained the role of Planning Officers. He went on to say that he understood that four letters of objection had been received by TDC, none of which had come from residents in the direct location of the proposed site.

Mr. Timms explained that he had a personal objection and also an objection because of the possible impact on the business he runs. He went on to say that he felt the Council has a responsibility to represent the views of parishioners and that he felt the process was wrong. Mr. Timms asked if the Council made its decision, to approve the application, after taking the views of the people of the Parish into account. Cllr. James reiterated the fact that the Council can only discuss the documents sent to it by TDC and that it had not received any written or verbal objections.

A general discussion took place. Cllr. James pointed out that he has no influence over the individual decisions of Councillors, who make up their own minds on the evidence placed before them. Mr. Timms thanked Cllr. James for his explanations.

1080. TO DISCUSS AND RESPOND TO A QUERY, FROM MR. M. TIMMS, REGARDING THE ALLOCATION OF COMPENSATION FROM SW WATER

A copy of the query had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr. James explained that he had attended the meeting at which Mr. & Mrs. Hale and a representative of SW Water had discussed the impact of recent works carried out at The Bridge. He had left the meeting early and was later informed by Mr. Hale that SW Water would be paying compensation to the Council for the disruption caused by the works. Mr. Timms gave further details, as he had attended the meeting after Cllr. James had left. He had asked SW Water to pay compensation which could be divided between the Primary School and the Village Hall. Cllr. James explained the wording of the Minutes of the August Council Meeting, in which it was stated that the compensation would be used for ‘environmental enhancement’ i.e. possibly a bench at the river walk site and a contribution to the cost of a rubbish bin in the playground near the Hall. Mr. Timms said he was “relaxed” as to where the money goes.

Cllr. James had passed the cheque from SW Water, an amount of £250, to the PC prior to the Meeting, which she will pay into the Council's bank account. An Item will be placed on the Agenda for the Full Council Meeting in January to ratify how the money is to be allocated.

1081. PLANNING

Permission

1/0626/2013/FUL

1 Canal Rise

Bridgerule

Amendment to Plot 1 (of planning permission 1/0346/2008/FUL) to include extension at ground floor providing raised patio over and other alterations

1082. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. McDougall reported that the road from Furze Cross to Furze Farm is in a deplorable condition. The PC confirmed that she had reported this on a number of occasions. Cllr. Giles reported the condition of the road from Holladon Farm down to Chapel Cross. The PC confirmed that these, and any other Highways' issues Cllrs. let her know about, would be brought to the attention of Mr. Phillips at the meeting on 20th January.

1083. PARISH HALL

Cllr. Seymour-Smith confirmed that all scheduled work for the year was complete.

1084. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received 20th November – 17th December

1. Friends of Bridgerule School – request to locate a bike rack (agenda item)
2. NALC – re. council tax benefit support grant in relation to Precept
3. S. Phillips/B. Parsons – various e-mails re. item 1 of sent – traffic through Bridgerule/funeral
4. Holsworthy Motor Club – 23 February 2014 – Chairman's Trophy Classic Reliability Trial
5. TDC – Precept 2014/2015 - various
6. Rural Services newsletter – (circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)
7. NALC – Council Tax Support Grant (see 2. Above further info)
8. M. Timms – various queries (agenda items December Meeting)
9. Rural Services newsletter – (circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)
10. S. Southwell – Empty Properties Report (requested by PC and circulated to Cllrs)
11. Connecting Devon – Broadband update
12. TDC – Customer Services Satisfaction Survey (circulated to Cllrs)
13. DCC – Emergency management December edition
14. Rural Services newsletter – (circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)
15. Cllr. S-Smith – complaint from resident re. TDC not repairing central heating pump in rented property (in e-mail folder)
16. Christmas Cards – Chair of TDC and Geoffrey Cox
17. TDC – Recycling Guide (in file)
18. Rural Services newsletter – (circulated to Cllrs. with internet access)

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

Correspondence Sent – 20th November – 17th December

1. S. Phillips/B. Parsons – various e-mails (see item 3 of received) traffic through Bridgerule/funeral
2. Natwest – authorisation to transfer £2K from Reserve to Bonus Saver account
3. S. Phillips – concerns of Council re. road closure and vehicles using B'rule highways (see November Minutes)
4. K. Miles – derelict housing (see November Minutes)
5. M. Shadrick FOBs – acknowledging letter (See November Minutes)
6. TDC – various e-mails re. repairing central heating pump see Item 15 received

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

1085. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr. James reported that he would like the Council to consider extending the car park outside the Village Hall, taking away some of the grassed area. An Item will be placed on the Agenda for the January Meeting to discuss this.

1086. CLERK'S REPORT

The PC reported that she had investigated the possibility of the Devon Heritage Centre taking old Minute books for archiving. After a general discussion, it was agreed the PC should pursue this.

1087. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr. McDougall informed the Meeting that a mobile 'phone video had been taken of the recycling lorry returning to collect debris which had been strewn after an earlier collection.

Cllr. McDougall brought to the attention of Cllrs. an article regarding funding for Post Offices and wondered if the Bridgerule Post Office could benefit. Cllr. James said he would speak to Cllr. Parsons about this.

Cllr. Giles informed the Meeting that he and Cllr. Abbott would like to place the Park Bench (bought by the Council several months) ago on a concrete base; finance would be needed for this.

Cllr. Johnston informed the Meeting that new residents to Bridgerule are unable to get a telephone line connected for 7 months.

Cllr. Giles informed the Meeting that the Primary School play had been excellent.

Cllr. Abbott informed the Meeting that he felt a bigger mower for the playing field/football pitch was required. An Item regarding this will be placed on the Agenda for the January Council Meeting.

1088. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signature Date